

REMARKS

Concurrently with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal in connection with the above-identified application, Applicants are amending the claims of the above-identified application to further clarify the definition of various aspects of the present invention. Specifically, rejected claims 1, 3-6, 19, 21, 24, 25 and 27 are presently being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and in particular without prejudice to the filing of a Continuing application directed to the subject matter thereof. In addition, non-elected claims 22, 23 and 26 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and in particular without prejudice to the filing of a Divisional application directed to the subject matter thereof. In view of the present canceling of claims, as well as previously canceling of claims, it is respectfully submitted that only allowed claims 7-14 and 20 remain in the application. A typographical error has been corrected in claim 9.

The withdrawal of claims 22, 23 and 26 from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention, set forth in Item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action mailed September 3, 2003, is noted. Such withdrawal from consideration is moot herein, in light of present canceling of claims 22, 23 and 26.

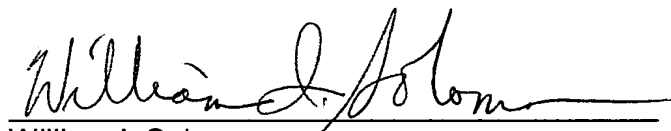
The rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 19, 21, 24, 25 and 27 on prior art grounds, as set forth in Item 4 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action mailed September 3, 2003, is noted. This rejection is moot herein, in light of canceling of the rejected claims. Moreover, contentions by the Examiner in Item 5 on page 4 of the Office Action mailed September 3, 2003, are moot herein, in light of canceling of the rejected claims.

The Examiner is thanked for the indicated allowance of claims 7-14 and 20. As claims 7-14 and 20 are the only claims remaining in the application, and noting allowance of claims 7-14 and 20, passing of the above-identified application to issue in due course, after consideration of the concurrently filed Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 CFR § 1.97 And 1.98, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 511.37656X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William I. Solomon", is written over a horizontal line.

William I. Solomon  
Registration No. 28,565

1300 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 1800  
Arlington, VA 22209  
Tel: (703) 312-6600  
Fax : (703) 312-6666  
WIS:sjg